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Statistics Canada

1996 Census

Mother Tongue, Home Language & Knowledge
of Languages.

Aboriginal Data

Ethnic Origin, Visible Minorities

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Mother Tongue, Home Language and Knowledge of Languages

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MOTHER TONGUE, HOME LANGUAGE AND KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGES**HIGHLIGHTS**

- The multilingual nature of Canada is growing as a result of increased immigration. In 1996, 4.7 million people reported a mother tongue other than English or French, up from 15% from 1991. They accounted for nearly 17% of the total population in 1996.
- English was the mother tongue of about 60% of Canada's population in 1996, down slightly from the shares recorded since 1986. The proportion of the population whose mother tongue was French, about 24%, was also lower in 1996, continuing the gradual decline which has occurred since 1951.
- In Quebec, the share of French as home language declined slightly since 1991, but was still considerably higher than it was 25 years ago, 83% in 1996 compared with 81% in 1971. In contrast, the share of English as home language continued its long-term decline, from 15% in 1971 to 11% in 1996.
- Bilingualism gained ground across the country, the rate rising in every province except Saskatchewan where it remained the same as in 1991. In 1996, 17% of the population could speak English and French, compared with 13% in 1971.

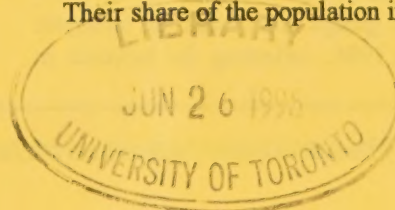
Statistics Canada today releases data on mother tongue, home language and knowledge of languages from the 1996 Census, the fifth of 11 announcements that are painting a new statistical portrait of the nation. This release describes changes in the composition of Canada's language groups.

The data, collected on May 14, 1996, showed that the multilingual nature of Canada is growing as a result of increased immigration. In 1996, there were 4.7 million people who reported a mother tongue other than English or French, a 15.1% increase from 1991. This increase was 2 times faster than the overall growth rate of the Canadian population (5.7%). The number of people reporting English as mother tongue increased 4.7%, while those reporting French increased 2.3%.

Between 1971 and 1996, the proportion of people with a mother tongue other than English or French (allophones) increased from 13% of the overall population to nearly 17%. Mother tongue is defined as the first language a person learned at home in childhood and still understood at the time of the census.

The growth in the proportion of allophones has been the result of increases in both the number of immigrants, and the proportion of immigrants whose mother tongue was neither English nor French. This dual trend gained momentum in the 1980s, and has continued steadily during the 1990s.

Persons whose mother tongue was English (anglophones) accounted for nearly 60% of Canada's population in 1996. Their share of the population increased from 1971 to 1986,

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then decreased over the next decade. The proportion of the population whose mother tongue was French (francophones) declined gradually between 1971 and 1996 to less than 24%.

Immigration has had a profound impact on languages spoken in Canadian homes. About 2.8 million people, almost one of every 10 in Canada, spoke a language other than English or French most often at home in 1996. Chinese consolidated its hold as Canada's most common language spoken at home, after English and French.

The census also showed that English-French bilingualism has gained ground across the country. Between 1991 and 1996, the rate increased in every province except Saskatchewan, where it remained unchanged. The proportion of francophones who were bilingual was almost five times that of anglophones.

MOTHER TONGUE: over three-quarters of recent immigrants had a mother tongue other than English or French

The presence of languages other than English or French in Canada reflects the ethnic and linguistic diversity that characterizes the nation. The proportion of people with a non-official language as mother tongue increased between 1991 and 1996 in every province except in the three Prairie provinces.

Almost 80% of the 1,039,000 immigrants who came to Canada between 1991 and 1996 reported a non-official language as mother tongue in the 1996 Census. More than half of them were from Asia and the Middle East. Chinese was the mother tongue of almost a quarter of these recent immigrants while Arabic, Punjabi, Tagalog, Tamil and Persian mother tongues together accounted for another one-fifth.

In contrast, among immigrants counted in the 1996 Census as having arrived in Canada between 1961 and 1970, only 54% had a non-official language as mother tongue. More than two-thirds of those immigrants were born in Europe, and almost a quarter of them reported Italian, German or Greek as mother tongue. Chinese accounted for only 4% of the immigrant population who arrived between 1961 and 1970.

Chinese as a mother tongue has been experiencing rapid growth since the 1980s due to increased immigration, particularly from Hong Kong and the People's Republic of China. Between 1991 and 1996, the number of people who reported Chinese as mother tongue increased 42% to 736,000.

As a result, Chinese moved from second place to first as the most frequently reported non-official mother tongue among Canadians, surpassing Italian. Chinese mother tongue comprised 2.6% of the total population in 1996, followed by Italian, German and Spanish, in that order.

After Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic and Tagalog were the three other non-official language groups which had the strongest growth between 1991 and 1996, reflecting the increase in

immigrants from Asia and the Middle East.

Twenty-five years ago, the top three non-official mother tongues were German, Italian and Ukrainian. Their number has been declining since 1971, due largely to significant declines in immigration from European countries and the increasing death rates associated with the aging of their population.

In 1996, 47% of people with Ukrainian mother tongue were aged 65 and over, as were 28% of people with German and 20% of those with Italian. In contrast, 12% of Canada's population was aged 65 and over.

Definitions

***Mother tongue:** the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census.*

***Home language:** the language spoken most often at home by the individual at the time of the census.*

***Non-official language:** any language other than the two official languages of Canada: English and French.*

***Anglophone:** the population with English as mother tongue.*

***Francophone:** the population with French as mother tongue.*

***Allophone:** the population with a non-official language as mother tongue.*

***Bilingualism:** the ability to speak both English and French, based on the self-assessment of respondents.*

***Single response:** When the respondent reports only one language as mother tongue or home language.*

***Multiple response:** When the respondent reports more than one language as mother tongue or home language. To simplify the analysis, in most of the statistics used in the text, the multiple responses were equally distributed among the languages reported.*

HOME LANGUAGE: one in 10 persons spoke a non-official language at home

Even though 4.7 million people reported a mother tongue other than English or French in 1996, only 2.8 million spoke a non-official language most often at home. They represented nearly 10% of the population, compared with 7% in 1971.

This increase was due to the heavy influx of immigration into Ontario and British Columbia between 1986 and 1996. The proportion of the population which spoke a non-official language at home almost doubled between 1971 and 1996 in British Columbia, to 13%. In Ontario, it increased from 10% to almost 14%.

Twenty-five years ago, Italian was the leading home language after English and French, followed by German and Ukrainian. In 1996, however, Chinese headed the list,

followed by Italian and Punjabi.

Immigrants who arrived between 1991 and 1996 were especially attracted to Canada's three largest census metropolitan areas - Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. Toronto had the highest proportion of individuals (25%) who spoke a non-official language at home in 1996, followed by Vancouver (22%) and Montreal (12%).

Almost one-fifth of young people aged less than 15 in Toronto and Vancouver spoke a non-official language most often at home, nearly 2 ½ times higher than the national average (8%). In Montreal, the proportion was 11%.

BILINGUALISM: English-French bilingualism gaining ground

English-French bilingualism gained ground in Canada during the last five years.

In 1996, 17% of the population, or 4.8 million people, could speak both official languages, compared with slightly over 16%, or 4.4 million, in 1991 and 13%, or 2.9 million, in 1971.

English-French bilingualism rate

	1971	1981	1991	1996
	%			
Canada	13.5	15.3	16.3	17.0
Newfoundland	1.8	2.3	3.3	3.9
Prince Edward Island	8.2	8.1	10.1	11.0
Nova Scotia	6.7	7.4	8.6	9.3
New Brunswick	21.5	26.5	29.5	32.6
Quebec	27.6	32.4	35.4	37.8
Ontario	9.3	10.8	11.4	11.6
Manitoba	8.2	7.9	9.2	9.4
Saskatchewan	5.0	4.6	5.2	5.2
Alberta	5.0	6.4	6.6	6.7
British Columbia	4.6	5.7	6.4	6.7
Yukon	6.6	7.9	9.3	10.5
Northwest Territories	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.3

Except for Saskatchewan, where the proportion of the bilingual population remained stable, all provinces and territories recorded an increase from 1991 to 1996.

Quebec was still the province with the highest rate of bilingualism. Between 1971 and 1996, the proportion of bilingual people in Quebec increased from 28% to 38%. In second place was New Brunswick where 33% of the population was bilingual in 1996, compared with 22% in 1971.

In Ontario, which had the third-highest rate, the percentage of the population which was bilingual increased over the 25-year period, from 9% to 12%.

The percentage of bilingual people differed considerably from one census metropolitan area to another. In general, the census metropolitan areas in Quebec had a higher percentage of bilingual people.

Half of Montreal's population was bilingual, the highest percentage among the 25 census metropolitan areas. It was followed by Ottawa-Hull (44%), where there was a marked difference between the Quebec part (62%) and the Ontario part (38%). The census metropolitan area outside Quebec with the highest rate of bilingualism was Sudbury, 40% of whose population was bilingual.



ABORIGINAL DATA

HIGHLIGHTS

- In the 1996 Census, nearly 800,000 people reported that they were North American Indian, Métis or Inuit.
- The Aboriginal population was 10 years younger, on average, than the overall Canadian population. As a result, the Aboriginal working-age population will increase dramatically over the next two decades.
- Almost one-third of all Aboriginal children under the age of 15 in Census families lived with a lone parent, twice the rate in the general population. Aboriginal children in Census families were much more likely to be in a lone-parent family if they lived in one of Canada's census metropolitan areas.

1996 Census: Aboriginal data

This report provides a profile of the 799,010 individuals who reported that they were North American Indian, Métis or Inuit, about 3% of Canada's total population.

As reported in the Census, about two-thirds of the Aboriginal population, or 554,000 people, were North American Indian, one-quarter or 210,000 were Métis and one in 20, or 41,000, were Inuit. These numbers slightly exceed the total Aboriginal population of 799,010 since a small number, about 6,400, reported that they considered themselves as members of more than one Aboriginal group.

The 1996 Census data cannot be compared to data from the 1991 Census and previous censuses. Prior to 1996, census data on Aboriginal persons were derived from a question that asked about their ethnic origin or ancestry. The 1996 Census included a new question that asked more directly if the person is an Aboriginal person, that is, North American Indian, Métis or Inuit. The ethnic origin question was modified in the 1996 Census, and detailed data from this question will be available in February.

Most Aboriginal people lived west of Quebec, and in the North

Although the Atlantic provinces and Quebec accounted for one-third of the total population of Canada, they were home to only 14% of Canada's Aboriginal population in 1996. The highest concentrations of Aboriginal people were in the North and on the Prairies. More than four out of every five Aboriginal persons lived west of Quebec.

Aboriginal identity population¹ 1996

	Total population	Total Aboriginal population	Aboriginal population as % of total population	Geographic distribution of Aboriginal population
			%	
Canada	28,528,125	799,010	2.8	100.0
Newfoundland	547,160	14,205	2.6	1.8
Prince Edward Island	132,855	950	0.7	0.1
Nova Scotia	899,970	12,380	1.4	1.5
New Brunswick	729,630	10,250	1.4	1.3
Quebec	7,045,080	71,415	1.0	8.9
Ontario	10,642,790	141,525	1.3	17.7
Manitoba	1,100,295	128,685	11.7	16.1
Saskatchewan	976,615	111,245	11.4	13.9
Alberta	2,669,195	122,840	4.6	15.4
British Columbia	3,689,755	139,655	3.8	17.5
Yukon Territory	30,655	6,175	20.1	0.8
Northwest Territories	64,120	39,690	61.9	5.0

¹ The population who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group: North American Indian, Métis or Inuit.

Ontario and British Columbia both had about 140,000 Aboriginal people, highest among the provinces, although they represented only 4% of British Columbia's total population and 1% of Ontario's.

Manitoba was in third place with 128,685 Aboriginal people. They represented 12% of Manitoba's population, the

highest proportion among the provinces. Aboriginal people accounted for 11% of Saskatchewan's population, and 5% of Alberta's.

The highest concentrations by far were in the North. The 39,690 Aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories represented 62% of its total population. There were 6,175 Aboriginal people in the Yukon, representing 20% of its population.

About three of every 10 Aboriginal people lived on rural reserves, and another three in 10 lived in census metropolitan areas. One-quarter lived in urban areas other than census metropolitan areas, and one-fifth in rural areas other than reserves, often isolated northern communities.

Aboriginal identity population ¹

1996

	North American Indian ²	Métis ²	Inuit ²
Canada	554,290	210,190	41,080
Newfoundland	5,430	4,685	4,265
Prince Edward Island	825	120	15
Nova Scotia	11,340	860	210
New Brunswick	9,180	975	120
Quebec	47,600	16,075	8,300
Ontario	118,830	22,790	1,300
Manitoba	82,990	46,195	360
Saskatchewan	75,205	36,535	190
Alberta	72,645	50,745	795
British Columbia	113,315	26,750	815
Yukon Territory	5,530	565	110
Northwest Territories	11,400	3,895	24,600

¹ The population who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group: North American Indian, Métis or Inuit.

² Single and multiple responses have been combined.

One out of five Aboriginal people lived in seven census metropolitan areas

About one-fifth of Aboriginal people, or 171,000, lived in seven of the country's 25 census metropolitan areas in 1996 - Winnipeg, Edmonton, Vancouver, Saskatoon, Toronto, Calgary and Regina.

Winnipeg had the highest Aboriginal population at almost 46,000, more than the entire Northwest Territories. Winnipeg was followed by Edmonton, with almost 33,000 and Vancouver with slightly more than 31,000.

Aboriginal people accounted for 7.5% of Saskatoon's population, the highest proportion of any census metropolitan area, as well as about 7% each for Regina and Winnipeg. In contrast, they represented only 1.7% of the population of Vancouver, Canada's third largest census metropolitan area.

Aboriginal population much younger than the general population

The average age of the Aboriginal population in 1996 was 25.5 years, 10 years younger than the average of 35.4 years in the general population.

Children under 15 accounted for 35% of all Aboriginal people, compared with only 20% of Canada's total population. Children in this age group accounted for 38% of all Aboriginal people on rural reserves, the highest share for any geographical area, compared with 32% in census metropolitan areas.

Although the total Aboriginal population represented about 3% of Canada's total population, Aboriginal children under age 15 comprised 5% of all youngsters in this age group. In both Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Aboriginal children under 15 accounted for 20% of all youngsters in this age group. It is projected that they could account for up to 25% by the year 2016 in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Aboriginal population growing more rapidly than the general population

Although the fertility rate among the Aboriginal population is declining, the Aboriginal population continues to grow more rapidly than the total population. Census data showed that there were 491 Aboriginal children aged under five for every 1,000 Aboriginal women of childbearing age in 1996. This was about 70% higher than the ratio for the total population, which was 290 children per 1,000 women.

Given the number of young children, large increases will occur in the next decade in the Aboriginal youth population aged 15 to 24. In 1996, there were about 144,000 in this age group.

Aboriginal identity population in selected census metropolitan areas ¹

1996

	Total population	Total Aboriginal population	Aboriginal population as % of total population
Toronto	4,232,905	16,100	0.4
Winnipeg	660,055	45,750	6.9
Regina	191,480	13,605	7.1
Saskatoon	216,445	16,160	7.5
Calgary ²	815,985	15,200	1.9
Edmonton	854,230	32,825	3.8
Vancouver ²	1,813,935	31,140	1.7

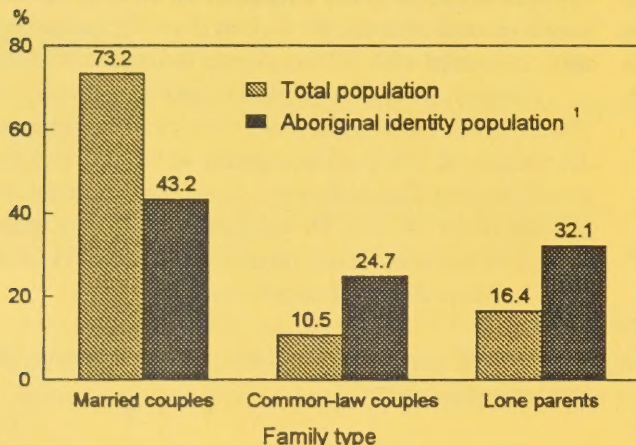
¹ The population who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group: North American Indian, Métis or Inuit.

² These CMAs contain, within their boundaries, Indian reserves which were incompletely enumerated during the 1996 Census. Consequently, their counts of North American Indians are affected by this incomplete enumeration.

By 2006, it is projected to reach 181,000, up 26%. The associated increase in Aboriginal women of childbearing age will result in continued large numbers of Aboriginal children being born.

Similarly, over the next two decades, other segments of the Aboriginal adult population are expected to increase significantly, particularly those aged 35 to 54 who comprise the majority of the working-age population. By 2006, this group is expected to grow from 173,000 to 244,000, a 41% increase. By 2016, it is projected to reach 280,000, up 62% over 1996.

Proportion of children aged 0-14 in Census families, by family structure, Canada, 1996



¹ The population who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group: North American Indian, Métis or Inuit.

One-third of Aboriginal children under age 15 in Census families lived with a lone parent

Almost one-third (32%) of Aboriginal children under the age of 15 in Census families lived in a lone-parent family in 1996, twice the rate within the general population. Less than half (43%) in this age group lived in a married couple family, while one-quarter lived in a common-law couple family. Not all Aboriginal persons under 15 lived in Census families. About 11% did not live with their parents. The share of those under 15 living in a common-law couple family was almost 2½ times the rate within the general population.

Aboriginal children in Census families were much more likely to be in a lone-parent family if they lived in one of Canada's census metropolitan areas. In Winnipeg, Regina, and Saskatoon, for example, about half lived with a single parent. As a result, about 30% of all children in lone-parent families in these cities were Aboriginal children.

Three out of 10 Aboriginal people could carry on a conversation in an Aboriginal language

About 207,000 individuals, or just over one-quarter of the Aboriginal population, reported that they had an Aboriginal language as mother tongue, that is, it was the first language they learned at home in childhood. However, only 15% of the entire Aboriginal population, or about 120,000 people, reported that they actually spoke an Aboriginal language at home.

On the other hand, 234,000 people, or 29% of the population, reported that they were able to carry on a conversation in an Aboriginal language. This proportion varied greatly by Aboriginal group. Almost three-quarters of those who identified as Inuit reported an ability to conduct a conversation in Inuktitut, the largest proportion within the three groups. In contrast, 35% of North American Indians reported an ability to conduct a conversation in an Aboriginal language, as did 9% of Métis.

The ability to conduct a conversation in an Aboriginal language was more common among older Aboriginal people. About one-quarter (26%) of Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 24 reported an ability to converse in an Aboriginal language, compared with 30% of Aboriginal adults aged 25 to 34. Knowledge of an Aboriginal language was most common among those aged 55 years and over. One-half of this group were able to converse in an Aboriginal language.

Knowledge of an Aboriginal language was most widespread on Indian reserves and settlements (56%), and lowest in urban areas, both in census metropolitan areas (11%) and other urban areas (18%).



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1996 CENSUS: ETHNIC ORIGIN, VISIBLE MINORITIES

HIGHLIGHTS

- Modifications to the format of the 1996 Census ethnic origin question resulted in a major change in the way ethnic origins were reported. In the 1996 Census, 19% of the total population reported "Canadian" origin, 17% reported British Isles-only ancestry, and 9% reported French-only ancestry. About 28% of the population reported origins other than Canadian, British or French.
- Canada was home to 3.2 million persons who identified themselves as members of a visible minority. They represented 11.2% of the total population in 1996, up from 9.4% in 1991 and 6.3% in 1986. The Census showed that about three persons out of every 10 in the visible minority population were born in Canada.

ETHNIC ORIGIN

Ethnic origin, as defined in the census, refers to the ethnic or cultural group(s) to which an individual's ancestors belonged. It pertains to the ancestral roots or origins of the population, and should not be confused with place of birth, citizenship or nationality.

For the 1996 Census, the format of the ethnic origin question was modified significantly from 1991. In both censuses, respondents were asked: "To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did this person's ancestors belong?" In 1991, 15 of the most frequent origins were listed on the questionnaire, and respondents were asked to mark as many as were applicable. In addition, two blank spaces were provided in which they could write any other responses that might have been applicable, and several other origins were provided as examples.

In 1996, the questionnaire did not provide pre-listed answer categories (origins). Instead, four blank spaces were provided for respondents to write in their origins, and 24 examples of such origins were provided as illustrations. For the first time, "Canadian" was included among the examples because it was the fifth most frequently reported origin in 1991.

As expected, these modifications, in particular the inclusion of "Canadian" as an example, resulted in a major change in the way ethnic origins were reported. As a result, the 1996 Census data on ethnic origin can not be compared meaningfully with data from earlier censuses.

In the 1996 Census, 5.3 million persons, accounting for 19% of the total population, reported their only ethnic origin as "Canadian". An additional 3.5 million persons (12%) reported

both Canadian and other origins. In 1991, when "Canadian" was not listed as an example, 3% reported Canadian only and a further 1% reported Canadian in combination with one or more other origins.

Virtually all persons who reported Canadian in 1996 were born in Canada and had English or French as a mother tongue. Furthermore, a comparison of reporting patterns with those in the 1991 Census showed that much of the reporting of "Canadian" was done by persons who previously provided English or French origins. This suggests that many of these respondents were persons whose families have been in Canada for several generations.

Regions of Canada which were settled the earliest, and had experienced relatively little recent immigration, tended to have the highest proportion of people reporting their origins as Canadian. In Atlantic Canada, 21% of the population reported a single response of Canadian, as did 38% in Quebec. In the other provinces, the proportion ranged from 9% to 13%.

Canadian, British Isles, French largest ethnic origins

In addition to the 5.3 million persons who reported "Canadian" as their single ethnic origin in 1996, about 4.9 million people, or 17% of the population, reported British Isles-only ancestry, and about 2.7 million, or 9%, reported French-only ancestry. The latter group included 19,000 individuals who said that Acadian was their only ethnic origin and another 12,000 who stated that they were both French and Acadian.

Southeast Asian and 590,000 reported single South Asian origins.

Definitions

A multiple response occurs when a respondent provides two or more ethnic origins. For example 478,025 persons gave a response which included Italian and one or more other ethnic origins.

Proportion of population by ethnic origin

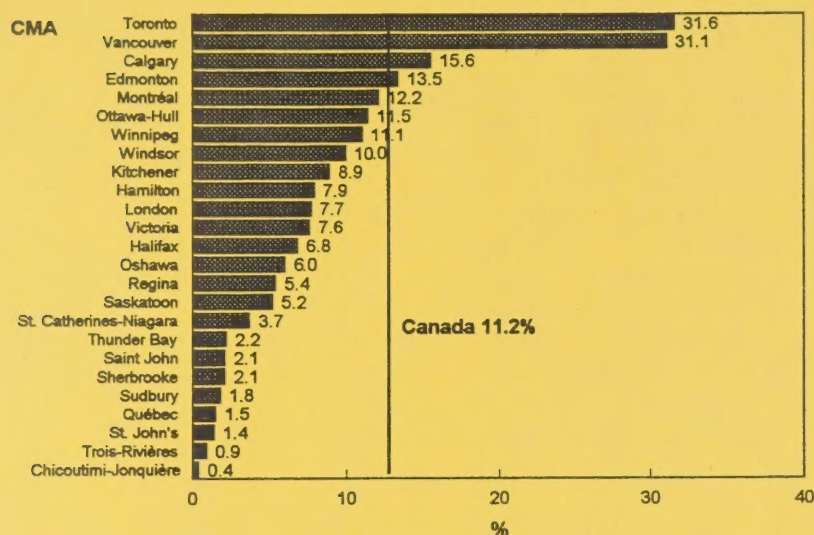
	Total population	Total population	British Isles only ¹	French only ²	Canadian	British Isles and/or French and/or Canadian ³	Other and British Isles, French or Canadian ⁴	Other single and multiple origins ⁵
					%			
Canada	28 528 125	100.0	17.1	9.5	18.7	10.2	16.1	28.5
Newfoundland	547,160	100.0	57.7	1.3	21.0	11.5	5.7	2.8
Prince Edward Island	132,855	100.0	42.8	6.4	13.0	24.8	9.6	3.4
Nova Scotia	899,970	100.0	33.0	4.3	19.2	18.9	16.5	8.1
New Brunswick	729,630	100.0	25.0	17.0	23.9	21.5	9.1	3.5
Quebec	7,045,080	100.0	3.0	29.3	37.7	9.6	5.4	14.9
Ontario	10,642,790	100.0	21.1	2.9	12.1	11.1	16.8	35.9
Manitoba	1,100,295	100.0	15.7	3.1	8.6	6.6	24.0	42.0
Saskatchewan	976,615	100.0	14.3	1.9	10.2	5.5	30.0	38.0
Alberta	2,669,195	100.0	16.5	1.8	12.8	7.4	27.4	34.1
British Columbia	3,689,755	100.0	21.5	1.3	9.7	8.1	23.2	36.2
Yukon Territory	30,650	100.0	17.1	2.3	15.0	9.2	28.4	28.2
Northwest Territories	64,125	100.0	9.5	1.4	6.9	4.4	16.7	61.1

⁵ Other single and multiple origins include single and multiple responses which do not include British Isles origins, French origins, or Canadian.

VISIBLE MINORITIES

One of the objectives of the 1996 Census was to provide information on the numbers and characteristics of persons who are members of a visible minority in Canada, as defined by the Employment Equity Act. The Act defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in color". Under this definition, the regulations to the Act specify the following groups as visible minorities: Chinese, South Asians, Blacks, Arabs and West Asians, Filipinos, Southeast Asians, Latin Americans, Japanese, Koreans and Pacific Islanders.

Visible minority population as a percentage of census metropolitan areas, 1996



The information on the visible minority population was collected using a new Census question which asked respondents whether they were a member of one of the population groups defined as a visible minority under the provisions of the Employment Equity Act.

In previous censuses, this information was derived primarily from responses to the question on ethnic or cultural origin. However, with the increased reporting of "Canadian" only, this question could no longer be considered reliable to provide sufficient information to identify the various groups comprising the visible minority population. In 1996, a direct question was added, asking respondents to indicate their population group by checking one or more of 10 mark-in categories.

Since the 1970s, sources of immigration to Canada have changed greatly, with many more immigrants coming from non-European countries. Over half the immigrant population who arrived since the 1970s, and three-quarters of those who came in the 1990s, are members of a visible minority group.

In 1996, Canada was home to 3.2 million persons who identified themselves as members of a visible minority. They represented 11.2% of the total population in Canada, up from 9.4% in 1991 and 6.3% in 1986. The Census showed that about three out of every 10 individuals who identified as a visible minority were born in Canada, and the rest were immigrants.

While Ontario and British Columbia contained half of Canada's total population, they accounted for almost three-quarters of the visible minority population.

The proportion of visible minorities varied considerably from less than 1% of the population of Newfoundland to highs of 18% in British Columbia, and 16% in Ontario. The proportion was below the national average of 11% in all of the other provinces and territories.

Almost all visible minorities lived in large urban centres

Consistent with immigrant settlement patterns, almost all visible minorities, about 94%, lived in a census metropolitan area in 1996, compared with 62% of the total population. Also, they tended to be concentrated in a small number of census metropolitan areas.

Seven out of every 10 visible minority persons in Canada lived in just three census metropolitan areas: Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal. This was more than twice the proportion of Canada's population who resided in these areas (33%).

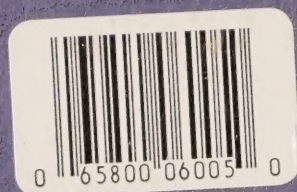
Toronto was home to 42% of the total visible minority population in Canada, the largest proportion of any census metropolitan area, while 18% lived in Vancouver and 13% in Montreal.

Visible minorities made up a much higher share of the total population of Toronto (32%) and Vancouver (31%) than they did in Montreal (12%). Four other urban areas also had a relatively high share: Calgary (16%), Edmonton (14%), Ottawa-Hull (12%) and Winnipeg (11%).

Visible minority population

1996

	Total population	Total visible minority population	Visible minorities as % of total population	Geographic distribution of visible minorities
			%	
Canada	28,528,125	3,197,480	11.2	100.0
Newfoundland	547,155	3,815	0.7	0.1
Prince Edward Island	132,855	1,520	1.1	0.0
Nova Scotia	899,970	31,320	3.5	1.0
New Brunswick	729,625	7,995	1.1	0.3
Quebec	7,045,085	433,985	6.2	13.6
Ontario	10,642,790	1,682,045	15.8	52.6
Manitoba	1,100,295	77,355	7.0	2.4
Saskatchewan	976,615	26,945	2.8	0.8
Alberta	2,669,195	269,280	10.1	8.4
British Columbia	3,689,760	660,545	17.9	20.7
Yukon Territory	30,650	1,000	3.3	0.0
Northwest Territories	64,125	1,670	2.6	0.1



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